Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining and promoting hair thickening, comprising

(A) providing a composition, which increases ~~for increasing~~ the expression of keratinocyte growth factor (FGF-7) in hair follicle cells; and

(B) applying the composition to the scalp of a subject in need thereof for a period of time, such that the thickness of the subject's hair after the step (B) is substantially the same or greater than that before the step (B), wherein the period is at least one month; and

wherein the composition comprises one or more FGF-7 expression accelerators selected from the group consisting of adenosine, adenosine 5'-phosphoric acid, adenosine 5'-phosphate, 2-chloro-N^6-cyclopentyladenosine, 2-chloro-N^6-(3-iodobenzyl)-9-[5-(methylcarbamoyl)-β-D-ribofuranosyl] adenine, and N-ethylcarboxyamido-adenosine.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[16]] **15**, wherein at least one type of the agent that increases expression of FGF-7 in the hair follicle cells is adenosine.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the hair follicle cells are dermal papilla cells or outer root sheath cells.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[16]] **15**, wherein the hair follicle cells are dermal papilla cells or outer root sheath cells.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the hair follicle cells are dermal papilla cells or outer root sheath cells.

21. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein the composition consists essentially of one or more FGF-7 expression accelerator selected from the group consisting of adenosine, adenosine 5'-phosphoric acid, adenosine 5'-phosphate, 2-chloro-N^6-cyclopentyladenosine, 2-chloro-N^6-(3-iodobenzyl)-9-[5-(methylcarbamoyl)-β-D-ribofuranosyl] adenine, and N-ethylcarboxyamido-adenosine.